

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DPW-01 AID-05 IO-13 OMB-01 CU-02 EUR-12

EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /097 W

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R 081059Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3058

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 25134

FOLLOWING TELE SENT ACTION BANGKOK FROM SONGKLA DATED: SEPT 7
1976 REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L SONGKHLA 207

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PINS, TH, MY

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER'S TRIP TO THE SOUTH

SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER PICHAI RATTAKUL AND PARTY MADE FACT
FINDING TRIP TO SOUTHERN BORDER PROVINCES SEPT 3-5. PARTY TRAVELED
TO BETONG DISTRICT, YALA, AND WAENG AND SUNGAIKOLOK DISTRICTS OF
NARATHIWAT. EVENING OF SEPT 4 PARTY WENT TO KOTA BHARU, WEST
MALAYSIA WHERE PICHAI MET WITH MALAYSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TENGKU
RITHAUDDEEN. THAI EXPECT TO RECEIVE MALAYSIAN DRAFT OF REVISED
BORDER AGREEMENT THIS WEEK. END SUMMARY

1. FOREIGN MINISTER PICHAI RATTAKUL AND PARTY CONSISTING OF
UNDERSECRETARY ANANT PANYARACHUN, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLITICAL
DEPARTMENT DR. KOSOL SINTHAWASON, SUPREME COMMAND CHIEF OF STAFF
LT. GEN CHAROEN PHONGPHANICH, AND DEPUTY INTERIOR MINISTER DHAMRONG
SUNTHORNSARATHUN, TRAVELED TO SONGKHLA, YALA, AND NARATHIWAT SEPT
3-5 TO REVIEW POLITICAL AND MILITARY SITUATION IN BORDER PROVINCES.

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DR. KOSOL SAID TRIP WAS VERY USEFUL. WHILE SEVERAL MEETINGS HAD

BEEN HELD WITH MALAYSIANS IN PENANG AND KUALA LUMPUR HE SAID THIS WAS FIRST CHANCE TO REVIEW BORDER SITUATION WITH THAI OFFICIALS IN SITU. APPARENTLY PICHAI'S EARLIER FACT FINDING TRIP TO THE NORTHEAST INSPIRED THIS ONE AND KOSOL TOLD ME A THIRD TRIP TO THE BURMA BORDER WILL BE SCHEDULED AFTER PICHAI RETURNS FROM THE UNGA MEETINGS IN NEW YORK IN OCTOBER.

2. IN BETONG, PARTY WAS TOLD INSURGENT RECRUITING AMONG YOUTHS WAS INCREASING AND THAT TRADITIONAL COMMUNIST PARTY OF MALAYA (CPM) STRONGHOLDS WERE EXPANDING SOMEWHAT TO POINT WHERE RUBBER PRODUCTION ADVERSELY AFFECTED. SMUGGLING AND BANDITRY WERE MAIN TOPICS ADDRESSED IN NARATHIWAT. DEPUTY MINISTER DHAMRONG SAID GROUP CONCLUDED THAT GREATER EMPHASIS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WAS IMPERATIVE

IN RURAL AREAS OF DEEP SOUTH IF INSURGENT AND SEPARATIST CHALLENGES WERE TO BE MET. HE SAID COORDINATED CIVILIAN-POLICE-MILITARY EFFORTS TO IMPROVE DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY IN THE AREA WOULD BE MAIN TOPIC AT MEETING OF 14 SOUTHERN GOVERNORS TO BE CHAIRED BY PRIME MINISTER SENI PRAMOTE IN SONGKHLA SEPT 10. (COMMENT: IF A BORDER TRIP HAS LED RTG TO CONCLUDE THAT MORE EMPHASIS SHOULD BE PLACED ON SOLVING INTERNAL PROBLEMS THIS WOULD BE ENCOURAGING DEPARTURE FROM PRACTICE OF FINDING FOREIGN BOGEYMAN AS SOURCE OF PROBLEMS.)

3. PICHAI SAID MEETING IN KOTA BHARU WITH MALAYSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER RITHAUDDEEN WAS UNSCHEDULED EVENT PROMPTED BY DISCOVERY THAT RITHAUDDEEN WAS VACATIONING IN HIS HOME TOWN. THEY DISCUSSED BORDER SITUATION AND WERE TOLD MALAYSIANS WOULD SUBMIT REVISED DRAFT OF BORDER AGREEMENT TO BANGKOK WEEK OF SEPT 6. ANOTHER TOPIC DISCUSSED WAS PROBLEMS THAI TAXIS AND TOUR BUSES WERE HAVING ENTERING MALAYSIA. DHAMRONG SAID HE THOUGHT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON THIS AND THAT HARASSMENT OF TAXIS AND BUSES WOULD STOP.

4. THAI PARTY SEEMED UNANIMOUS IN FEELING VISIT INCREASED THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF BORDER PROBLEMS AS WELL AS THOSE OF DEEP SOUTH IN GENERAL. THEY ALSO IMPLIED THAT ON SIGHT BRIEFINGS ATTENDED BY BANGKOK BIGSHOTS BOOSTED MORALE OF LOCAL RTG OFFICIALS HERE. TO PUT TRIP IN PERSPECTIVE, HOWEVER, TWO OF THE THREE EVENINGS WERE SPENT IN HAT YAI WHILE THIRD WAS IN KOTA BHARU. REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHAT IMPACT THE VISIT WILL HAVE ON FINAL BORDER AGREEMENT.
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